

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

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MEETING OF

NYA STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Louisville, Kentucky
February 15, 1939

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION FOR KENTUCKY

Robert K. Salyers, Director

Dr. Henry Noble Sherwood, Chairman
State Advisory Committee



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The first meeting of the NYA State Advisory Committee was held February 15, 1939, 2:00 P.M., in the Derby Room of the Brown Hotel, Louisville.

Acting as chairman of the Committee until a chairman could be elected from among the members, Robert K. Salyers, State NYA Director, reviewed the development of the two principal phases of the program: (1) part-time work for needy students to enable them to continue their education in high schools and colleges, and (2) part-time employment on work projects for out-of-school young people certified as in need of public assistance.

He pointed out that the NYA program is now vastly different from the program put into operation four years ago, although from the standpoint of organization it is still essentially decentralized and dependent upon state and local administration for its success. The student aid program is still operating along the same general lines, but the work project program, which started out on a "work relief" basis is now taking on the aspects of a "work experience program" for young people, most of whom are without previous training and often without any idea of what they might do. Promotion of good work habits and social development are recognized as important factors in today's work project program.

A short movie was presented depicting activities of the NYA in Kentucky.

Continuing his remarks, Mr. Salyers stated that NYA has reached a point in development where it will require a great deal of thought and planning to make it fit in with other agencies and those who administer the program need to have a source of inspiration and information to consult in making the important decisions at hand. For this reason, the present Advisory Committee is composed of people from all sections of the state, representing all aspects of the educational system, and the community and social agencies with which the NYA program will be concerned.

Mr. Salyers outlined the functions of a State Advisory Committee:

1. Assist NYA State Staff in program planning.
2. Advise on youth needs.
3. Advise State Director on special problems.
4. Interpret program objectives and activities to the public.
5. Assist in maintaining efficient, non-political administration of the program.

Because it would be difficult for all members to meet often and consider in detail the various problems, a plan was devised to establish sub-committees which are to meet and discuss special problems.

Following Mr. Salyers' explanation of the purpose and functions of the Advisory Committee, there was discussion concerning the work program in colleges and high schools from the standpoint of benefit to the student, whether the work should be educational in itself, or merely a means of earning expenses to enable students to remain in school. School and college executives present expressed varying opinions, but all agreed that more attention should be given to planning work for students in high schools.

In this connection, several school and college officials were called upon for an account of what NYA has done in their institutions.

Professor Atwood Wilson, Principal of Central Colored High School, Louisville, gave an interesting account of the procedure used in assigning his 80 NYA high school students to various types of work, stating that the time and effort expended in attempting to assign each student work to which he is best suited has been to the advantage of the school as well as the students. According to Professor Wilson, a careful investigation is made of the need of each applicant, and after the student has been approved, a study is made of his mental outlook, ability and aptitudes.

The following are the results of the study:

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Miss Ethel Lovell of Ahrens Trade School, Louisville, expressed the opinion that the work which a student does on the IYA program can be a real contribution to his regular educational program from the standpoints of formation of good work habits, social adjustment, and ability to take instructions and put them into action, even though it may not be possible to assign a student to the kind of work in which he is most interested. She further stated that the program at Ahrens Trade School is operated with the idea that if a student sincerely wants and needs IYA aid in order to remain in school, the quality of his IYA work should indicate that.

President R. A. Kent, of the University of Louisville, offered an interesting statement on the educational value of the IYA student aid program in itself, and as a means to help the student continue his education.

Superintendent Ova Haney, of Morgan County Schools, described the IYA work project program in operation in Morgan County - the construction and workshop program for boys, which has furnished desks, chairs and tables for county schools; and the girls' resident training center operated in connection with the high school at West Liberty, where project workers secure training in homemaking and domestic service and at the same time take some classes at the high school. Mr. Haney said that he considered the work project program in his county valuable from the standpoint of educational training.

President R. B. Atwood, of Kentucky State College for Negroes, in discussing the IYA resident work experience project for boys which has recently started operation at his institution, stated that the officials there think more of the educational value resulting from the resident project than the student aid program, because of the difficulty of placing students in suitable and valuable jobs on the student aid program. He explained that approximately eight types

of work experience are available on the resident project, and that the worker is aided in his choice by vocational aptitude tests and conference with the vocational guidance counselor. An arrangement has been made whereby each boy spends half the day on his regular project work, and the other half in class work suited to the job he is doing.

Dr. Frank L. McVey, President of the University of Kentucky, suggested that additional efforts be made by the committee or the State Office to impress upon school principals the importance of careful planning in connection with the work programs for their NYA students.

Rev. Felix H. Pitt, Secretary of the Catholic School Board, Louisville, raised the question of how long the NYA program will last.

Mr. Salyers stated that this was subject to the action of Congress, but expressed himself as optimistic about prospects for continuation of the work being done by NYA.

Dr. Henry Noble Sherwood, President of Georgetown College, was elected Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Salyers, who will act as Secretary, stated that the next meeting would be held during KEA, and that the members would be asked to serve on sub-committees before that time.

Dr. Sherwood declared the meeting adjourned.

MEMBERSHIP OF STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
FOR KENTUCKY

Dr. Henry H. Sherwood, Chairman
Robert K. Salyers, Secretary

Dr. Henry Noble Sherwood
Hon. Barry Bingham
Hon. Harry W. Peters
R. F. Kirk

Lawrence Koch
R. B. Atwood
Miss Helen H. Dingman

Ova O. Haney
James Gribbons
Hon. Ben Kilgore
W. P. King
Dr. J. A. C. Lattimore
Miss Ethel Lovell
Henry Ward
Rev. Felix W. Pitt
Mrs. James G. Sheehan

Atwood Wilson
Dr. Ralph H. Woods

Bailey P. Wootton
Dr. Frank L. McVey
Dr. Raymond A. Kent
Miss Madeane Sears
Sam Caddy
Frank Orndorff
Joe Lovett

T. W. Oliver
Arthur Plummer

President, Georgetown College
Publisher, Louisville Courier-Journal
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Secretary-Treasurer, Kentucky State Building
and Construction Trades Council.
General Secretary, YMHA
President, Kentucky State College for Negroes
Executive Secretary, Conference of Southern
Mountain Workers
Superintendent of Schools, Morgan County
Worker employed on NYA Work Project
Secretary, Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation
Executive Secretary, KEA
Physician
Principal, Ahrens Trade School, Louisville
City Editor, Paducah Sun-Democrat
Secretary, Catholic School Board, Louisville
Vice-President, National Congress of Parents
and Teachers
Principal, Central Colored High School
Director of Vocational Education, State
Department of Education
Director of State Parks
President, University of Kentucky
President, University of Louisville
Student, Somerset High School
President, District 30, United Mine Workers
Principal, Adairville Training School
Commander, Kentucky Department, American
Legion
President, Kentucky Education Association
Chairman, Men's Student Council
University of Kentucky

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES
IYA STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Henry H. Sherwood, Chairman
Robert K. Salyers, Secretary

Planning

Barry Bingham

Lawrence Koch

R. F. Kirk

Mrs. James G. Sheehan

W. P. King

Harry W. Peters

College Aid

Dr. Raymond A. Kent

Arthur Plummer

R. B. Atwood

Dr. Frank L. McVey

Ben Kilgore

Joe Lovett

High School Aid

T. W. Oliver

Miss Madeline Soars

Atwood Wilson

Miss Ethel Lovell

Rev. Felix H. Pitt

Henry Ward

Out-of-School Program

Dr. H. L. Donovan

Ova O. Hancy

Dr. Ralph H. Woods

Bailey P. Wootton

Miss Helen H. Dingham

Sam Caddy

James Gribbons

Negro Problems

Dr. J. A. C. Lattimore

Frank Orndorff

Henry Ward

Atwood Wilson

R. B. Atwood

THE SECRETARY OF THE
NAVY
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